

Illinois Valley News

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Eagles fundraise for a fresh coat of paint, murals and tables too



(Photo by Laura M. Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

On Monday, July 12 Evergreen Elementary School Principal Jenny Jones is happy about the new murals painted from the \$5,000 raised by the Read-a-thon held last spring.

Laura Mancuso
IVN editor

Evergreen Elementary School Principal Jenny Jones was found painting murals complete with paint on her jeans during her summer break.

Along with new office manager Dawn Hall, secretary Tammie Middel and her custodial staff, Jones was painting and organizing the front office when the *Illinois Valley News* came for a visit July 12. The colors will stay green and white of course to stick with the Eagle's logo theme. "The office has

not been redone since the 1980s," said Jones.

The Evergreen staff is in the process of giving Evergreen a "well-needed makeover."

Currently, Jones is looking at a new eagle head logo for the school that will stay green and white.

Thanks to the Read-a-thon the school had last spring, two murals were painted for \$2,500 each. Jones is hoping to have three more murals painted with fundraising dollars and all of them will be a "theme of the eagles with good manners, playground rules and more."

A big project that Jones wants to complete is the "outdoor eating and learning space work area" located outside of the cafeteria. This project is reliant on community donations and she is asking for help.

So far, the school has raised money to spruce up the outside-front of the cafeteria with cement fill-ins, new paint and four metal outdoor tables that will have small plaques on them in memory of a loved one or donated by a family. "Families or businesses can donate," said Jones.

SEE JONES ON A-8

Water trucks, levy and islands were topics at 1st live council meeting of the year

Laura Mancuso
IVN editor

The Cave Junction City Council meeting was live and "in person" at City Hall July 12 for the first time this year. The meeting was eventful with Grocery Outlet store owner Ethan Lane appointed and sworn in for councilor position #1, replacing Dan Bosch.

The mayor and councilors all expressed their gratitude to Lane for stepping up for his community and gave him a warm welcome to city council.

Commissioner Darin Fowler encouraged community members to get out and support local businesses by shopping since COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted. He also reminded folks that the jail and juvenile justice levy renewal is coming up in November and "hopes renewal information will be presented well, so voters can make a good decision."

Councilor Tina Casey Jones said she appreciates the increased law enforcement presence in the city. She also informed the council that she has heard from many city constituents that have concerns about "illegal pot grows, primarily about water usage for the grows." Jones would like to see more community conversations with the sheriff

to learn how law enforcement is responding to the complaints.

Councilor Jesse Dugas suggested another council tour of the city water facilities. He also spoke of the many Facebook comments and complaints about water usage for illegal cannabis grows. He has encouraged those with concerns to show up to city council meetings for discussion of the issue (so far, no one has shown up).

Mayor Meadow Martell commented on the negative impact from the long line of water trucks waiting for the bulk water station located in the neighborhood at Junction Ave. Along with the increase in traffic to the neighborhood, the water trucks have caused damage to the street. She said the first priority of the city is to "move the bulk water station to another location."

In a follow up email with the *Illinois Valley News*, city recorder Rebecca Patton reported, "In response to the many complaints about the water truck traffic on S. Junction Avenue I called Josephine County Sheriff and asked if they would spend some time visiting the water trucks on S. Junction Avenue."

SEE CITY ON A-8



(Photo by Laura M. Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Councilor Tina Casey Jones (left), Mayor Meadow Martell, city recorder Rebecca Patton, Councilors Jean Ann Miles and Jesse Dugas at the first live city council meeting of the year July 12 - right before swearing in Ethan Lane for council position #1.

Sheriff takes down more grows in the Valley

On Tuesday, July 13, 2021, members of Josephine Marijuana Enforcement Team (JMET) in partnership with Oregon State Police, Rogue Area Drug Enforcement (Grants Pass DPS, OSP, Josephine County Parole and Probation), Illegal Marijuana Enforcement Team (IMET, consisting of Jackson County SO, Medford PD), Homeland Security Investigations and Josephine County Code Enforcement; served a search warrant relating to illegal marijuana grow operations in the 1300 block of Lakeshore Dr, 6000 block of Takilma Rd and the 300 block of Merlot Dr.

During the execution of the search warrant, 27,696 illegal marijuana plants were seized and destroyed. Additionally, 27 firearms, multiple water pumps and generators were seized as evidence. \$255,611 in cash



was also seized. (Side note: the cash, which is subject to forfeiture, can only be used for training and equipment, not personnel.)

Zacharea Jafarzadeh, 30, and Woodrow Benear, 32, were arrested and lodged in the Josephine County Jail for possession, manufacture, and unlawful delivery of marijuana. Additionally, 11 subjects were detained due to safety concerns. At the time of this press release, the investigation is ongoing, and no further details are being released.

Citizens speak out during commissioners meeting

CJ Schatza
IVN copy editor

The lifting of pandemic restrictions by the Oregon state government has allowed the Josephine County Board of Commissioners to return to in-person meetings the last few weeks, but a well-attended auditorium brought the biggest return to normalcy as more citizens got up to speak at the July 14 business session than at any session in months.

It had been so long since more than a handful of citizens showed up to speak during requests and comments from citizens that Board Chairperson Dan DeYoung felt the need to go over the rules of public comments, including that disorderly, abusive or disruptive behavior is not tolerated, and any audience participation (such as clapping or chanting) is prohibited as well.

O'Brien resident Judy Hinkle kicked off public comments. She has frequently spoken over Zoom about unsubstantiated theories that COVID-19 vaccines are causing death and destruction, and her opinions on the pandemic were reiterated in-person. Hinkle cast doubt on the existence of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is known to have killed over 600,000 Americans, and blamed scientists, the media (including a shout-out to the *I.V. News*) and even JoCo Public Health for publicizing research pointing to the safety of vaccines that more than half of the United States' population over 12 has received.

Even as new, more infectious variants of COVID-19 are reportedly causing a spike in infections and hospitalizations nationwide, Hinkle shared that in her opinion, the vaccines were "designed specifically to kill and cripple." She called on the commissioners to stop "the genocide," and said "judgement to come from God" will be unleashed on those who are complicit in promoting vaccines. Catherine Austin of the *Illinois Valley* echoed many of these same points.

Craig Hinkle, Judy's husband, presented some unsubstantiated information of his own, asserting baselessly that Americans had built up herd immunity to COVID-19 before the virus even began spreading (Note: Scientists have posited that over 75% of a population must be immunized to a virus before herd immunity comes into play). Craig Hinkle called on the board to pass an ordinance preventing any future mask mandates or social distancing from being required.

SEE COUNTY ON A-8